ABSTRACT

Upon detecting a collision with a pedestrian, a rear side of a vehicle hood which is hinged at its front side is quickly lifted in order to alleviate a secondary impact on the pedestrian who is first hit by a front bumper. To detect the collision with a pedestrian without fail, a plurality of load sensors are mounted on the bumper, and the detection of the collision is made based on an output signal from each one of the load sensors. Thus, the collision with a pedestrian can be accurately distinguished from a collision with obstacles other than a pedestrian.